

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1315

INFORUMAT/AMEMBASSY ATHENS 4723

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION USNATO

CINCUSAFE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 8373

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY

SUBJECT: TURKISH COALITION GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO MAKE
FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS

1. TURKISH SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
KAMURAN INAN TOLD EMBOFF NOVEMBER 12 THAT "THERE WILL NEVER
BE HARMONY" WITHIN THE DEMIREL-LED COALITION GOVERNMENT BUT
THAT IF THE UNGA CYPRUS DEBATE DID NOT CREATE DIFFICULTIES, THE
GOVERNMENT WOULD BE READY TO SUPPORT INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIA-
TIONS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DEBATE AND WOULD BE CAPABLE OF
TAKING THE TOUGH DECISIONS REQUIRED BY THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.
HOWEVER, HE WARNED, IF THE OUTCOME OF THE UNGA DEBATE WERE
VERY UNSATISFACTORY FROM TURKEY'S POINT OF VIEW, IT WOULD
TAKE "TWO OR THREE MONTHS" BEFORE TURKEY WOULD BE READY
TO RESUME THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS.

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2. INAN SAID THAT THE RECENT ASSASSINATIONS OF THE TURKISH AMBASSADORS TO AUSTRIA AND FRANCE HAD CREATED STRONG SUSPICIONS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT THAT GREEK OR GREEK-CYPRIOIS WERE RESPONSIBLE. THESE SUSPICIONS, IN TURN, HAD HELPED STRENGTHEN THE HARDLINE POSITION ON CYPRUS ADVOCATED BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ERBAKAN, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ISLAMIC-ORIENTED NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY. INAN SAID THAT HE HAD TOLD THE GREEK AMBASSADOR THAT HE HIMSELF WAS PRAYING--AND THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT SHOULD ALSO PRAY--THAT THE CULPRITS WHEN FOUND DID NOT TURN OUT TO BE GREEKS OR GREEK-CYPRIOIS, BECAUSE THE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AND GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS GENERALLY WOULD BE VERY GRAVE.

3. ON THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM OF THE PARLIAMENTARY DEADLOCK OVER ELECTING NEW SPEAKERS FOR THE TWO HOUSES, INAN FORECAST THAT A FORMULA MIGHT BE WORKED OUT WITHIN THE NEXT TWO DAYS BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO HAVE THE NEW SENATE PRESIDENT ELECTED IN THE TIME TO BE ACTING PRESIDENT OF TURKEY DURING PRESIDENT KOCUTURK'S VISIT TO PAKISTAN STARTING NOVEMBER 18. THERE WAS STILL SOME POSSIBILITY, INAN REMARKED, THAT PRIME MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL WOULD BECOME SENATE PRESIDENT, IN WHICH CASE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FEYZIOGLU (AND NOT INAN HIMSELF) WOULD BE THE MOST LIKELY CANDIDATE TO BECOME FOREIGN MINISTER. HOWEVER, THE POLITICAL BARGAINING INVOLVED WAS TOO COMPLEX TO PERMIT ANY DEFINITE FORECAST YET, HE SAID.

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